

Attorney's Docket No. 34848/243857

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Antoni Kozlowski
Appl. No.: To Be Assigned Group Art Unit: 1711
Filed: Concurrently Herewith
For: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF 1-BENZOTRIAZOLYL
CARBONATE ESTERS OF POLY(ETHYLENE GLYCOL)

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
37 CFR § 1.115

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Specification:

On page 1, immediately after the title of the application, please amend the following paragraph to read as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/740,556, filed December 18, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/171,834, filed December 22, 1999, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

In The Claims:

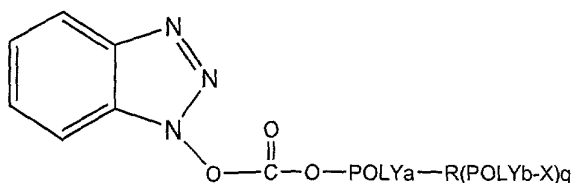
Please cancel Claims 1-30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 31-40 as shown below:

31. A method for the preparation of a 1-benzotriazolylcarbonate ester of a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer, comprising:

providing a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer having at least one terminal hydroxyl group, the polymer having the structure HO-POLYa-R(POLYb-X)_q, wherein POLYa and POLYb are water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbones that may be the same or different, R is a central core molecule, q is an integer from 2 to about 300, and each X is a capping group; and

reacting the terminal hydroxyl group of the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer with di(1-benzotriazolyl)carbonate to form a 1-benzotriazolylcarbonate ester of the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer having the structure:



32. The method of Claim 31, wherein each water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone is selected from the group consisting of poly(alkylene glycol), poly(oxyethylated polyol), poly(olefinic alcohol), poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(hydroxypropylmethacrylamide), poly(α -hydroxy acid), poly(vinyl alcohol), polyphosphazene, polyoxazoline, poly(N-acryloylmorpholine), and copolymers, terpolymers, and mixtures thereof.

33. The method of Claim 31, wherein POLYa and POLYb are poly(ethylene glycol).

34. The method of Claim 33, wherein POLYa and POLYb each have an average molecular weight from about 200 Da to about 100,000 Da.

35. The method of Claim 31, wherein each X is independently selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, hydroxyl, protected hydroxyl, active ester, active carbonate, acetal, aldehyde, aldehyde hydrates, alkenyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, active sulfone, protected amine, protected hydrazide, thiol, protected thiol, carboxylic acid, protected carboxylic acid, isocyanate, isothiocyanate, maleimide, vinylsulfone, dithiopyridine, vinylpyridine, iodoacetamide, epoxide, glyoxals, diones, mesylates, tosylates, and tresylate.

36. The method of Claim 31, wherein said reacting step is conducted in an organic solvent.

37. The method of Claim 36, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, and mixtures thereof.

38. The method of Claim 31, wherein said reacting step is conducted in the presence of a base.

39. The method of Claim 38, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of pyridine, dimethylaminopyridine, quinoline, trialkylamines, and mixtures thereof.

40. The method of Claim 31, wherein the molar ratio of di(1-benzotriazolyl) carbonate to the water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer is about 30:1 or less.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 have been cancelled from the application and new Claims 31-40 have been added. The purpose of this Amendment is to present claims directed to the Group II non-elected invention of the parent application. As a result, the claim amendments presented herein are not submitted for purposes of further limitation or to overcome any rejection. Applicant respectfully

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requests entry of this Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

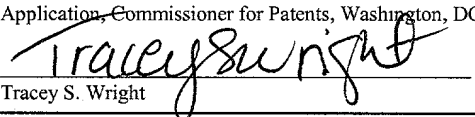


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Date of Deposit: February 6, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.


Tracey S. Wright

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 6, 2002.

RTA 2111286v1

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

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2000/12/18/09/740,556